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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 42 Berkeley, California, May 1960 Number 5

THE LOIS CRISLER LECTURE

It is our good fortune that Lois Crisler will leave her Rocky Mountain home to lecture for the Golden Gate Audubon Society on "Wolves of the Arctic Tundra." No one who has ever heard Mrs. Crisler lecture, who has read her book, *Arctic Wild,* or who has seen the superb motion pictures which she and her husband, Herb Crisler, have made in the wild country of the Olympic Mountains and the Brooks Range of Alaska, will miss this unusual experience. The Crislers, since completing their assignment for Walt Disney, filming the greater part of "White Wilderness", seldom venture forth from Crag Cabin, where they have several wolves who are a part of their lives. Their outstanding knowledge about wild animals especially wolves is from personal contact.

Lois Crisler will tell her story and show us pictures of her remarkable adventures at the Berkeley High School Little Theater, Allston Way and Grove, at eight o'clock, Wednesday, May 11th. Proceeds from the lecture are for our Sanctuary and Memorial Fund. Tickets are $1.50, and can be obtained from Mrs. Beth Snyder, 571 Dwight Place, Berkeley 4. Stamped, self-addressed envelope should be enclosed.

This is a rare opportunity. To avoid disappointment, send for your tickets immediately. Bring your friends of all ages, for a privilege they will treasure all their lives. LAUREL REYNOLDS

MARCH TRIP TO RODEO LAGOON

As proof of the ineluctability of man—anyway, bird watchers—seven members showed up in the pouring rain for the Audubon trip to the Rodeo Lagoon on Sunday, March 7. In spite of the heavy rain, which continued all day, we had a pleasant time. There were excellent views of Pelagic Cormorants from the lookout by the Golden Gate Bridge. We had at least a dozen Red-breasted Mergaansers in the lagoon, as well as one male and two female Hooded Mergansers. One Snowy Plover was seen, but sandpipers were absent.

All in all, the following 53 species, some looking almost as if they were drowing, were observed: Common and Red-throated Loon; Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebe; Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Common and Snowy Egret; Mallard; Canvasback; Greater and Lesser Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; White-winged and Surf Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Hooded and Red-breasted Merganser; Red-shouldered Hawk; American Coot; Snowy Plover; Killdeer; Sanderling; Glaucous-wing, Western, California,

and Ring-billed Gull; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Common Bushtit; Wrentit; Bewick's Wren; California Thrasher; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Hutton's Vireo; Orange-crowned Warbler; Yellowthroat; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Redwinged and Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; American Goldfinch; White-crowned, Fox, and Song Sparrow.

GERALD PHILLIPS, *Leader and Historian*

MARCH TRIP TO TILDEN PARK

On Saturday, March 26, a mild, somewhat cloudy day, about 50 members and friends went on the Tilden Park trip. We circled Jewel Lake and also made a partial ascent of Wildcat Peak by way of the Girl Scout camp. We did not see great numbers of any one species; and some species, notably the White-crowned Sparrow, were present in fewer numbers than usual at this time of year. The highlights of the day were good views of a Hutton's Vireo nest and of a Yellow-bellied Sasucker. We also had some new arrivals, the Western Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, and Wilson's Warbler; but we were about two weeks early for the Black-headed Grosbeak, which nests in Tilden, too.

The following 40 species were observed: Mallard; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed Hawk; California Quail; American Coot; Mourning Dove; Anna's and Allen's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Downy Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Western Flycatcher; Steller's and Scrub Jay; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; Wrentit; Bewick's Wren; Robin; Varied and Hermit Thrush; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Hutton's and Warbling Vireo; Orange-crowned, Audubon's and Wilson's Warbler; Purple and House Finch; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; White-crowned, Golden-crowned and Song Sparrow.

L. R. LEINBACH, *Leader and Historian*

MARCH TRIP TO THE MONTEREY BAY AREA

On the morning of March 12 about 30 Audubon members and friends met in the fog and drizzle at the north end of the bridge which crosses Elk Horn Slough at Moss Landing. At about 9:15 under clearing skies we went out to the jetty, where we banded, photographed, discussed, and released a few shorebirds that were caught before light that morning.

During the morning we birded Moss Landing where we got many water and land birds including two early Knots and a nice pair of Blue-winged Teal. At McCluskey Slough (about one mile north of Moss Landing) we got an early Western Flycatcher. In the afternoon, we birded the Monterey area, picking up a beautiful view of a pair of Kittiwakes sitting on the end of Point Pinos.

At four A.M. on March 13th about 15 members met at the Carmel Mission in a downpour for an attempt for owls. We went in caravan about six miles up the Carmel Valley to a well-known owling spot. A couple of hours of imitation "hooting" produced a Pigmy and several Screech and Horned Owls. The group met again in beautiful weather at the entrance to Point Lobos State Park at nine o'clock. After birding this area, we moved to the 17 Mile Drive, where some of the group saw Pink-Footed Shearwater, Black-footed Albatross and more Rhinoceros Auklets.

Some of the mammals seen were Gray Whale, Sea Otter, Sea Lion, Raccoon, Possum, Bobcat and Deer.

The quota proposed before the start of the trip was justly barely reached with the following 140 species seen and heard: Common, Arctic, and Red-throated Loon; Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebe; Black-footed Albatross; Pink-footed Shearwater; Brown Pelican; Double-crested, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorant; Common Egret; Black-crowned Night Heron; Mallard; Gadwall; Pintail; Green-winged, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal; Shoveler; Greater and Lesser Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; White-winged, Surf and Common Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Red-breasted Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Sparrow Hawk; California Quail; Sora Rail; American Coot; Black Oystercatcher; Snowy Plover; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Surfbird; Ruddy and Black Turnstone; Common Snipe; Long-billed Curlew; Whimbrel; Wandering Tattler; Willet; Greater Yellowlegs; Knot; Least Sandpiper; Dunlin; Short-billed Dowitcher; Western Sandpiper; Marbled Godwit; Sanderling; American Avocet; Black-necked Stilt; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed, Mew and Bonaparte's Gull; Black-legged Kittiwake; Forster's Tern, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot; Rhinoceros Auklet; Band-tailed Pigeon, Rock Dove; Mourning Dove; Screech, Great Horned, Pigmy and Short-eared Owl; White-throated Swift; Anna's and Allen's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Hairy and Downy Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Western Flycatcher; Violet-green, Tree, Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallow; Steller's and Scrub Jay; Common Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; Pigmy Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Wrentit; Bewick's and Long-billed Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; California Thrasher; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Water Pipit; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Hutton's Vireo; Orange-crowned, Myrtle, Audubon's and Townsend's Warbler; Yellowthroat; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Redwinged and Brewer's Blackbird; Brown-headed Cowbird; Purple and House Finch; Pine Siskin; American and Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Savannah Sparrow; Oregon Junco; White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox, Lincoln's and Song Sparrow.

RICHARD STALLCUP, *Leader and Historian*

NOTE: With this issue Mrs. Elizabeth M. Berry officially resigns as the editor of *The Gull.* We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Berry for her service, and we hope to be able to continue the high standards that she has set for us. The position of Assistant Editor is now open, and anyone interested in this vital job should contact the new editor. **Exchanges please note.**

OBSERVATIONS: Due to limited space, only a few can be included in this issue. AN EMPEROR GOOSE was seen at very close range at Pescadero Beach in San Mateo County, on April 13 (Richard Stallcup). A BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE was seen on April 17 on three separate occasions at Brooks Island off Richmond (John Ralph and Neil Lochhead). This bird could be possibly an escape as they usually occur only on the east slope of the Sierras.

THE CONSERVATION FRONT: PESTICIDES AND DUCK'S BACKS

"Conservation News" brings us word that President Eisenhower's proposed budget for 1961 contains no increase for pesticide research by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, although Public Law 86-279, passed by Congress and signed by the President last year authorized an accelerated program of research. It was expected at least $500,000 would be provided annually.

We are eagerly awaiting receipt of a new leaflet from the National Wildlife Federation (232 Carroll St. N.W., Washington, D.C.) titled "Water off the Duck's Back." This free pamphlet describes graphically the scandalous situation in our northern prairie states, where Federal aid to drainage is sabotaging soil reserve and wetlands aquisition programs, and piling up more surplus cereals while the duck go dry!

Thanks to the State Legislators for including appropriations to buy some private timber land lying across Big Basin Park, but we hear the Governor may blue-pencil it! The Bull Creek redwoods are in worse trouble. Seems the County Supervisors object to any park purchase to save them from winter flooding. PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

Note: Another object of immediate local concern is still under fire.... the Golden Gate State Park proposal to buy Federal Surplus land along Highway #1 in Marin County. The General Services Administration says that they will put this land up for sale to subdividers, however the State Park Department plans to go ahead and try to acquire the land. The GSA says "This land is too valuable for a park." We are fortunate that the Park Department feels otherwise. THE EDITOR

PROPOSED REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

In accordance with procedure for amendments as provided in Article IV of the Constitution and Article X of the By-Laws of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., the Board of Directors presents herewith for consideration of the members of this Society a proposed revision of our Constitution and By-Laws. This proposal will be voted upon at the next regular meeting of the members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., May 12, 1960.

The only change in the Constitution is in Article IV, making this article the same as proposed in the By-Laws.

In general the By-Laws have been changed to include the various amendments thereto over the past eight years; and pertinent detail relative to the Sanctuary and Memorial Fund; also to bring our Society as a Branch in line with the National Society as to fiscal year (July 1 to June 30); and classes of memberships, including the elimination of any new Local Members after July 1, 1960. All Local Members on the rolls June 30, 1960 will be continued upon payment of dues.

The term "Board of Directors" has been changed to "Board of Governors" with the inclusion in this new Board of all chairmen of standing committees. It is believed that with these chairmen on the Board the administration of the affairs of our Society will be improved. ROBERTA J. LONG, *President*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Berkeley, Miss Ann Ackerman, Mrs. Charles R. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Ravitz; from Beverly Hills, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mackintosh; from Martinez, Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Knudson; from Oakland, Mrs. Herbert T. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Matteson; from Sacramento, Mr. Ralph C. Brown; from San Francisco, Mrs. Kenneth D. Gardner, Miss Ida Krause, and Mrs. Grace W. Shuman. AGNES OCZKEWECZ, *Membership Chairman*

MAY MEETING

The 507th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, May 12 at 7:30 P.M. in the Rotary Natural Science Center on Lake Merritt in Oakland, near the duck-feeding area.

Mrs. Frank Scott (our own Dorothy) will show her 16 mm. film of WILD FLOWERS OF CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN NEVADA. Mrs. Scott, a former president of this Society, is well-known as a fine photographer and a delightful narrator. She is constantly in demand for many organizations. We are delighted that she will come to us. Bring friends!

A no-host dinner preceding the meeting will be held at Conover's Restaurant, Perkins and Grand Ave., just one block from the Science Center. Six o'clock. Everyone welcome. BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman*

FIELD TRIPS FOR MAY

On Sunday, May 1, to Jack London Ranch, Glen Ellen, Sonoma County. See April Gull for full announcement.

On Saturday, May 7, to San Antonio Valley & Patterson Pass. This trip was scheduled for the more active birders who like to tramp the hills for the difficult-to-find sparrows. The Chaparral-covered areas here are a haven for such species as Chipping, Lark, White-crowned, Lincoln, Fox, Song, Bell's and Rufous-crowned Sparrows. Black-chinned and Black-throated Sparrows have been seen by the alert and lucky. The return trip will probably be made via Mt. Hamilton. Meet in Livermore, one block down Livermore Avenue beyond the flagpole. Allow one hour driving from Oakland. Leader, Richard Stallcup LO 9-3185.

On Sunday, May 8, another "Birding by Ear" study will be made. Since Howard L. Cogswell's popular course on this subject in 1957 there has been much interest expressed by members in this phase of bird identification. Redwood Canyon with its heavily wooded to shrub covered habitat is ideal for a good variety of birds and will be the place used for this study. Sunrise will be at 5:54 a.m. Meet at south entrance to Redwood Canyon Regional Park at 5:15 a.m. Leader, Howard L. Cogswell, NE 6-1573.

Sat., & Sun., May 14 & 15 overnight flower trip to the Santa Lucias. The rugged beauty of the Santa Lucia Mountains will be explored. This is the home of the rare Santa Lucia Fir. The assemblage of flowering plants is both unusual and spectacular with flowers blooming right at the edges of the roads that have not yet heard of being "modernized" by wide shoulders and sprayed banks. Meet at 10 a.m. at the town park (center of town) in Hollister. Bring picnic lunch for two days. Saturday we will lunch at the Pinnacles National Monument (park fee 50 cents per car). That night we stay in King City. Make your own reservations. The Lindy at 743 Broadway is clean and reasonable. The Silver Saddle at 705 Broadway gives you a few more extras. Sunday go up into the mountains by way of Jolon. Our road will cross the old mission trail amid scenery that is wild and untouched. On this day we will picnic at the old Indian campground beside a tumbling mountain stream. We leave the mountains at Soledad and return to the bay area by way of the Salinas Valley. Total Distance 360 miles. Leader, Gladys Smith, SK 1-5382.

Sat., & Sun., May 21 & 22 overnight trip to Yosemite National Park. It is no secret that the Great Gray Owl is the hoped-for bird of this trip. The

Memorial Day trip in 1952 produced 69 species. Some of the highlights were views of nesting Pileated Woodpecker, Black Swift, Peregrine Falcon and Black-chinned Hummingbird. The waterfalls should be spectacular at this time. It is suggested that campers get together at Camp 11. Trips will start from the main postoffice in Yosemite Valley at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. on Sunday. The Saturday afternoon trip will be to the meadows on the Glacier Point Road to look for the Great Gray Owl. Leader, Guy McCaskie, Turner 5-9840, Auburn.

Sat., Sun., & Mon., May 28, 29, 30 to Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Tule Lake, Calif. Views of waterfowl in spring plumage and in their nesting activities is the object of this trip. These are phases that are not present in the bay area at the time we see them. Nesting islands have been provided around the lake for pelicans, cormorants, geese, ducks and gulls. Nesting waterfowl include Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Redhead and Ruddy Duck.

For those driving private cars follow route #99 to Weed and then route #97 to State Line Road just short of the Oregon border. Turn right (east) and follow signs to the town of Tule lake and to the headquarters of the refuge. Distance is about 425 miles and driving time about 10 hours. Meet at refuge headquarters office at 1 p.m. on Saturday May 28 and 9 a.m. Sunday May 29. The S.P. Cascade going to Klamath Falls and the Shasta Daylight returning to Oakland offer convenient schedules for this trip. Railroad agents can reserve drive your-self cars for you at Klamath Falls. Motel and hotel accomodations are available at Klamath Falls and the town of Tule lake. There are camping facilities on the refuge. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LO. 8-7534.

HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $6.50 per year, Includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, $1.50 per year.

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